



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 8**

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Ref: 8ERP-N

FEB 10 2006

Kathleen Clarke, Director
Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior
1620 L. Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Robert Bennett, Director
Wyoming State Office
Bureau of Land Management
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009

RE: Comments on the Jonah Infill Final
Environmental Impact Statement – CEQ 20060005

Dear Ms. Clarke and Mr. Bennett:

The Region 8 Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the referenced Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Jonah Infill Drilling Project, Sublette County, Wyoming. The review has been performed in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 4321, et. seq., and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7609.

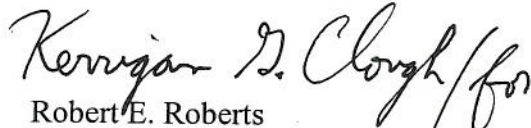
Since commenting on the Draft EIS for the Jonah Infill Project, the EPA has continued to work with your staff and the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), in preparation of the FEIS and subsequent Record of Decision (ROD) on this important project. Accordingly, our respective staffs have worked with determination and perseverance to address several issues and achieve a final project plan which will provide greatly needed energy resources for our Nation in a timely manner, while protecting the environment of southwestern Wyoming. This has been a model of collaboration between our agencies, which I sincerely hope will be the standard for the future.

Through this successful NEPA process, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properly analyzed and disclosed to the public the potential environmental impacts of the project. Through innovative approaches and cooperation with the operators, we have been able to find solutions allowing continued field development, while implementing pollution control technologies which will eliminate the visibility impacts from the Jonah field development on the nearby Bridger/Fitzpatrick Wilderness areas. In addition, the new air quality modeling performed in the

supplemental analysis forms an excellent foundation for an improved understanding of air quality for other projects in the region.

Once again, I want to thank you for your leadership on these difficult issues and I look forward to our continuing productive relationship. Meanwhile, if you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 303-312-6308 or Larry Svoboda at 303-312-6004.

Sincerely yours,


Robert E. Roberts
Regional Administrator

cc: John Corra, Wyoming DEQ
Don Simpson, Deputy Director, Wyoming BLM
Mike Stiewig, Wyoming BLM, Pinedale Field Office